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Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

During the reporting period, the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa held two meetings. The thirty-ninth ministerial meeting was held in Bujumbura from 1 to 5 December 2014, while the fortieth meeting was held in Luanda from 1 to 5 June 2015. The two ministerial meetings were organized by the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), in its capacity as secretariat of the Committee.

During these two ministerial meetings, the Committee reviewed the political and security situation in Central Africa and proposed specific recommendations on actions to be taken to address the prevailing security questions on the Committee's agenda. During its fortieth session, the Committee reviewed with concern the situation in Burundi and the Central African Republic and adopted appeals in this regard (see annexes II and III).

The Committee assessed progress achieved in the development of an integrated strategy on counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of arms in Central Africa, based on the road map adopted by the Committee at its thirty-third ministerial meeting, held in Bangui from 5 to 9 December 2011.

The special theme chosen for the thirty-ninth meeting revolved around the Boko Haram issue, given the increasing impact of the activities of the Nigeria-based terrorist group on Central African States. After the ministerial debate, the meeting concluded with the adoption of the Bujumbura Declaration on addressing the threat posed by Boko Haram (see annex I).

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The Committee discussed progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the June 2013 Yaoundé Summit on maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea, including the inauguration of the Interregional Coordination Centre and the handing over of the Regional Centre for Maritime Security in Central Africa to the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), and encouraged member States to increase their efforts to fully operationalize these institutions.

The Committee discussed the consequences of poaching and the illicit wildlife trade for the subregion and reviewed member State initiatives to address this growing phenomenon, including a high-level meeting co-organized by Gabon and Germany on the sidelines of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly and the convening of an international conference on the issue in the Congo.

The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and ECCAS updated the Committee on the status of the signature and ratification of legal instruments on disarmament and non-proliferation in the subregion, including the Kinshasa Convention and the Arms Trade Treaty.

During the fortieth meeting, the Committee examined the recommendations of the inter-agency strategic review of UNOCA, expressed its support for the reinforcement of the capacity of UNOCA and encouraged the States members of the Committee to advocate for the adoption of the recommendations in the relevant United Nations organs.

The forty-first ministerial meeting is scheduled to be held in Libreville before the end of 2015.

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 69/73, entitled "Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa", the General Assembly welcomed the efforts of the Standing Advisory Committee to address cross-border security threats in Central Africa. The General Assembly further reaffirmed its support for efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels in order to ease tensions and conflicts in Central Africa and to further sustainable peace, stability and development in the subregion.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly also expressed its satisfaction to the Secretary-General for his support to the Committee, welcomed the role played by the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), and strongly encouraged the States members of the Committee and international partners to support the work of the Office. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to provide the assistance needed by the Committee to ensure the success of its regular biannual meetings. It also called on him to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventieth session, a report on the implementation of resolution 69/73.

3. The present report is submitted in response to the above request and covers the activities carried out by the Committee from September 2014 to August 2015.

II. Activities of the Committee

4. The thirty-ninth ministerial meeting of the Committee was held in Bujumbura from 1 to 5 December 2014, and the fortieth ministerial meeting in Luanda from 1 to 5 June 2015. Both meetings were attended by Angola, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe.

5. The following entities also participated as observers in one or both ministerial meetings: the African Union; the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS); the Department of Political Affairs; the United Nations Office to the African Union; the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa; the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa; the United Nations Development Programme; the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB); the United Nations Electoral Observation Mission in Burundi (MENUB); the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA); and UNOCA.

6. During the thirty-ninth meeting, the regional coordinator for counter-terrorism and the non-proliferation of arms in Central Africa was invited to make a presentation on terrorism, given the special theme related to Boko Haram. During the fortieth meeting, the Committee examined the recommendations of the inter-agency strategic review of UNOCA.

7. The main issues on the agenda of the Committee and its activities during the period under review, as facilitated by UNOCA in its capacity as the secretariat of the Committee, are set out below.

A. Review of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa

8. The Committee continued to serve as a forum for developing a shared understanding of the peace and security challenges in Central Africa and of collective approaches for addressing them. In particular, the Committee examined developments within each country while also reviewing the principal cross-border security challenges across the subregion.

9. In particular, the Committee reviewed the impact of Boko Haram's activities on Cameroon and Chad; the activities of other armed groups, such as the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and those active in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo; the peace process and political transition in the Central African Republic; electoral processes in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and the humanitarian and human rights situation in the subregion as a result of those different crises. The Committee also reviewed issues related to counter-terrorism and the non-proliferation of small arms and light weapons; maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea; and transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking and poaching.

10. Regarding Boko Haram, the Committee, during its thirty-ninth session, adopted the Bujumbura Declaration (annex I), in which it expressed its solidarity with Central African States affected by Boko Haram; firmly condemned attacks by Boko Haram in northern Cameroon; noted the serious impact of the group's activities in Cameroon and Chad; proposed that the Boko Haram issue be included in the agenda of the next ECCAS summit of Heads of State; and requested my Special Representative for Central Africa to bring the issue to the attention of the Security Council. Following presentations by my Special Representative for Central Africa to the Security Council on 10 December 2014 and 11 June 2015, the Security Council adopted presidential statements in which it requested UNOCA to continue to support, as appropriate, the States of the Lake Chad Basin region to address the impact of the threat on peace and security, including the political, socioeconomic and humanitarian situation in the subregion (S/PRST/2014/25 and S/PRST/2015/12).

11. During the fortieth meeting, the Committee noted the decision of the African Union Peace and Security Council, on 29 January 2015, to deploy the Multinational Joint Task Force to combat Boko Haram as well as ongoing efforts related to the operationalization of the Task Force. The Committee recognized the engagement of the African Union, ECCAS and the Lake Chad Basin Commission as well as other partners in this regard. The Committee welcomed the convening in Yaoundé, on 16 February, of an extraordinary Summit of Heads of State of the Council of Peace and Security of Central Africa devoted exclusively to the Boko Haram issue and the expression of solidarity and support for Cameroon and Chad demonstrated by Central African States at the Summit. The Committee also noted the initiative by ECCAS Heads of States to convene a joint ECCAS-Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) summit for the purposes of developing a common approach among Central and West African States to addressing the threat posed by Boko Haram. On 25 May 2015, the headquarters of the Task Force was formally established in N'Djamena. On 3 June, an extraordinary meeting of the ECCAS Defence and Security Commission reviewed the ECCAS draft road map on the fight against Boko Haram. On 11 June, the Heads of State and Government of the Lake Chad Basin Commission adopted the strategic concept of operations of the Multinational Joint Task Force. Meanwhile, on 15 June, there were three

coordinated suicide bombings against the police headquarters and the police academy in N'Djamena, leaving 34 people dead, including four attackers, and more than 100 injured. While Boko Haram had not claimed responsibility for the attacks, it was presumed that the group was responsible.

12. The Committee reviewed the situation in the Central African Republic as well as the regional impact of the crisis. During the thirty-ninth meeting, the Committee welcomed the establishment of the international mediation led by the ECCAS-appointed mediator, the President of the Congo, Denis Sassou Nguesso, with the support of the African Union Special Envoy for the Central African Republic, Soumeylou Boubèye Maïga, and my Special Representative for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA, Abdoulaye Bathily; the signing of a cessation-of-hostilities agreement in Brazzaville on 23 July 2014; and the transfer of authority from the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic to MINUSCA.

13. During the fortieth meeting, the Committee noted the holding, from January to March 2015, of grassroots consultations at the prefecture level, as well as the successful conclusion of the Bangui Forum for National Reconciliation, held from 4 to 11 May 2015, which was chaired by my Special Representative for Central Africa, on behalf of the international mediation and at the request of the authorities. At the conclusion of the fortieth meeting, the Committee adopted the Luanda Appeal on the Central African Republic (annex II), which recognized the critical role played by ECCAS in resolving the crisis in the country; welcomed the outcomes of the Bangui Forum, including the signature of the Pacte républicain pour la paix, la réconciliation nationale et la reconstruction en République centrafricaine and the agreements between the Government and armed groups; and invited partners to assist in the urgent provision of necessary financing for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration activities and elections.

14. During the fortieth meeting, the Committee also reviewed the situation in Burundi and adopted the Luanda Appeal on Burundi (annex III), expressing concern at the political, security and humanitarian situation in the country, welcoming the nomination of the former Head of State of Chad, Goukouni Weddeye, as the ECCAS Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region, and requesting ECCAS to support subregional and international efforts to resolve the crisis in Burundi.

15. The Committee also recommended the following measures to promote stability in the subregion: concerted action to tackle the security and humanitarian impact of Boko Haram's activities; the ratification of the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components that Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly (Kinshasa Convention); the signature and ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty; and continuing development of the regional strategy on counter-terrorism and the non-proliferation of arms in Central Africa.

B. Implementation of the road map for counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of arms in Central Africa

16. At its thirty-third ministerial meeting, held in Bangui in December 2011, the Committee adopted the Declaration on a road map for counter-terrorism and the non-proliferation of arms in Central Africa (see A/67/72-S/2012/159, annex,

attachment I). Further to a request by member States for United Nations support, UNOCA, in partnership with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, and in consultation with ECCAS, initiated a process to convert the road map into a comprehensive strategy. In December 2012, in Brazzaville, a workshop was organized on the sidelines of the thirty-fifth ministerial meeting of the Committee, during which a regional network of experts on counter-terrorism was established. During the meeting, a road map was elaborated, in conformity with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and adopted. The road map foresees a series of thematic workshops to address critical issues, necessary for the elaboration of an integrated strategy on counter-terrorism and the non-proliferation of arms in Central Africa.

17. UNOCA, in collaboration with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, has supported the development of the integrated strategy through the organization of a series of workshops in collaboration with host countries in the subregion. The first two workshops in the series were held in 2014. During the current reporting period, the third workshop, on human rights and the prevention of violent extremism, was held in Luanda from 24 to 26 February 2015. The fourth workshop, on money laundering and terrorism financing, was held in Libreville from 19 to 20 May 2015. During the thirty-ninth and fortieth ministerial meetings, the regional coordinator for the United Nations integrated strategy on counter-terrorism and the non-proliferation of arms in Central Africa informed the Committee about the workshops that had been held to advance the development of the integrated counter-terrorism strategy.

18. The Committee took note of the remaining activities in the development of the integrated strategy on counter-terrorism. These include the last thematic workshop in the series, on judicial capacities, scheduled to be held in Yaoundé in September 2015; a meeting of experts to finalize the integrated strategy document and elaborate the action plan; and the presentation of the strategy and action plan, for adoption at the forty-first ministerial meeting of the Committee, to be held in Libreville. In the meantime, the Committee recommended that member States remain committed to the development of the integrated strategy.

C. Cross-border insecurity: armed groups, including Boko Haram and the Lord's Resistance Army

19. Boko Haram served as the special theme for the thirty-ninth meeting, which included a presentation from the Regional Coordinator on the root causes of terrorism in the region. UNOCA briefed the Committee on the increasing activities of Boko Haram and consequences for affected populations, further to an assessment mission it led in October 2014 to Cameroon and Chad, pursuant to the recommendations of the thirty-eighth ministerial meeting. During follow-up discussions at the fortieth meeting, UNOCA also informed the Committee about the joint diplomatic tour of Boko Haram-affected countries in the Lake Chad Basin and Benin undertaken by my Special Representatives for Central and West Africa in April 2015. At the time, they met with the Presidents of Benin, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria, the Prime Minister of Cameroon and the President-elect of Nigeria.

20. During both ministerial meetings, member States discussed the deteriorating security, socioeconomic, humanitarian and human rights situation due to the group's

activities in the affected areas of Cameroon and Chad. The Committee also reviewed the various initiatives of States members of the Lake Chad Basin Commission plus Benin, undertaken at the political and technical levels, to mobilize collective military action against the group. These efforts included those to operationalize the Multinational Joint Task Force, further to the decision of the African Union Peace and Security Council, on 29 January 2015, to deploy the force. States members of the Committee subsequently adopted the Bujumbura Declaration.

21. During the reporting period, UNOCA also briefed the Committee on the current operating picture of LRA, including its recent activity in the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. UNOCA provided an update on its own initiatives, undertaken in close coordination with the African Union, to coordinate implementation of the United Nations regional strategy to address the threat and impact of LRA (see S/2012/481, annex). These included the conduct of joint diplomatic missions to affected countries and the organization of biannual coordination meetings.

22. ECCAS highlighted the strength and activities of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda, the Forces démocratiques alliées and the Forces de résistance patriotique en Ituri in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and other groups active in the region, as well as efforts by the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) to combat those groups.

D. Maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea

23. At the thirty-ninth meeting, the Committee discussed progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the Summit of Heads of State and Government on Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea, held in Yaoundé on 24 and 25 June 2013. This included the inauguration, on 11 September 2014, of the Interregional Coordination Centre, to be managed jointly by ECCAS, ECOWAS and the Gulf of Guinea Commission, in cooperation with the host country, Cameroon. The Committee also took note of the handing over of the Regional Coordination Centre for Maritime Security in Central Africa, from the Congo to ECCAS, on 20 October 2014. The Committee recognized these developments as important advances in establishing a regional information-sharing architecture in the fight against piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea. The Committee encouraged member States to increase their current efforts to fully operationalize these institutions in line with the decisions of the Yaoundé Summit.

E. Poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking

24. The Committee examined the environmental, economic and security consequences of poaching and the illicit wildlife trade in Central Africa, including possible links between these activities and the illicit financing of armed groups. The Committee reviewed the initiatives of member States and partners in addressing this growing phenomenon. These efforts included the co-organization by Gabon and Germany of a high-level meeting held on the sidelines of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly on 26 September 2014; the convening of an international

conference, pursuant to the recommendations of the thirty-ninth meeting of the Committee, in Brazzaville from 27 to 30 April 2015; and the signing of a framework of cooperation agreement between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and ECCAS on the issue of illicit wildlife trafficking.

25. During the fortieth meeting, Gabon briefed the Committee on the status of the implementation of the recommendations related to the illicit trade in wildlife detailed in a letter from the Permanent Representatives of Gabon and Germany to the Secretary-General (see A/68/553, annex). Gabon noted that informal consultations within the United Nations among the Group of Friends against illegal wildlife trafficking, led by Gabon and Germany, were ongoing with regard to the development of a draft General Assembly resolution on the subject.

F. Update on activities of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs

26. The Committee was briefed by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and ECCAS on the status of implementation of existing legal instruments for disarmament and non-proliferation. The Centre highlighted the importance of ratifying the Kinshasa Convention. It noted that five States members of the Committee had submitted their instruments of ratification or accession to the Kinshasa Convention. The Regional Centre encouraged the remaining members of the Committee to follow suit, as entry into force required six ratifications.

27. The Centre informed the Committee that it had finalized a guide on the harmonization of national laws of the States parties to the Kinshasa Convention. The Centre and ECCAS shared with the Committee the different activities that they had organized to assist member States to fulfil and implement the Kinshasa Convention and the Arms Trade Treaty.

28. The Centre also announced the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty on 24 December 2014, noting that 130 States had signed the treaty, of which 67 had submitted their instruments of ratification, including one State member of the Committee. The Centre encouraged the member States that had not yet done so to sign and ratify the Arms Trade Treaty.

29. Finally, the Centre informed the Committee of its activities in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), by which the Council sought to prevent access to weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors. The Centre indicated that seven States members of the Committee had submitted an initial report to the relevant United Nations body on the subject and encouraged the remaining members of the Committee to follow suit. The Centre advised the Committee that it remained at the disposal of the Committee with regard to the provision of technical expertise related to the ratification of legal instruments and the reinforcement of capacity on issues related to disarmament and non-proliferation in Central Africa, in line with its mandate.

G. Cooperation with international and regional organizations, with the support of United Nations entities

30. The active participation of ECCAS and the African Union, as well as the presence and contributions to the work of the Committee of various United Nations entities, including the United Nations Office to the African Union, UNODC, the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, MINUSCA, MONUSCO, BNUB and MENUB, provided invaluable assistance to the efforts of the Committee to address peace and security challenges in Central Africa.

H. Strategic review of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa

31. During the fortieth meeting, the Committee examined the recommendations of the inter-agency strategic review of UNOCA, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Central Africa and the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (S/2015/339). In particular, the Committee discussed reinforcing the UNOCA political affairs section and addressing its mobility challenges, in order for the mission to be able to focus on the following four strategic priorities: (a) strengthening good offices, preventive diplomacy and mediation; (b) supporting United Nations and regional and subregional initiatives on peace and security; (c) enhancing coherence and coordination in the work of the United Nations in the subregion on peace and security; and (d) strengthening the capacity to advise the Secretary-General and United Nations entities in the subregion on significant peace and security developments.

32. The Committee expressed its strong support for the recommendations of the strategic review and requested Angola and Chad, as current members of the Security Council, to mobilize support for the recommendations among other Council members. In addition, the Committee requested permanent missions of Central African States to the United Nations to support the recommendations of the strategic review in the General Assembly, including in the Fifth Committee. The Committee also expressed its gratitude to UNOCA for its efforts as secretariat of the Committee.

III. Administrative and financial matters

33. The Committee recalled the 2009 Declaration on the Trust Fund of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (Libreville Declaration), adopted at its twenty-eighth meeting, and reviewed the financial status of the Trust Fund. The Committee noted that no additional contributions had been received since 2013 and expressed its deep concern over the lack of voluntary contributions, despite commitments made by the States members of the Committee. The Committee urged member States to fulfil their financial obligations so as to ensure the continued effective functioning of the Committee, in keeping with the spirit of the Libreville Declaration.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

34. The Secretary-General welcomes the Committee's continuing efforts to consolidate peace and security in Central Africa, in collaboration with subregional and regional organizations. He encourages the Committee to further strengthen its collaboration with ECCAS and to enhance cooperation with the United Nations system, the African Union as well as other regional and subregional organizations and international partners.

35. The ongoing activities of Boko Haram continue to have destabilizing humanitarian, human rights and security consequences for Central African States, particularly Cameroon and Chad. In this context, the Secretary-General welcomes the adoption by the Committee, at its thirty-ninth meeting, of the Bujumbura Declaration, in which it inter alia requested that ECCAS Heads of State remain seized of the issue. The Secretary-General also welcomes the continued efforts by regional and subregional actors and partners to address the root causes of the Boko Haram insurgency in a holistic and integrated manner and encourages ECCAS and ECOWAS to hold the planned summit of Heads of State. The Secretary-General also welcomes the ongoing development of the integrated strategy on counter-terrorism and the non-proliferation of arms in Central Africa. He encourages States members of the Committee, with support from UNOCA, the United Nations Centre for Counter-Terrorism and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, to finalize the integrated strategy and to consider its adoption during the Committee's forty-first ministerial meeting. In line with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the Secretary-General reiterates the importance of ensuring that all counter-terrorism measures comply strictly with international human rights and humanitarian law and the rule of law. This imperative relates both to operations conducted by the Multinational Joint Task Force and the finalization of the integrated strategy for the region.

36. The situation in the Central African Republic and the impact of that crisis on the local population and the subregion remain matters of serious concern. The adoption by the Committee of the Luanda Appeal on the Central African Republic is a strong signal of the subregion's continuing engagement on the issue. The Secretary-General supports the Committee's call upon Central African stakeholders and partners to ensure the successful implementation of the conclusions of the Bangui Forum for National Reconciliation. In particular, he highlights the urgent need to mobilize the requisite resources to ensure the conduct of the elections and implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, and calls on Member States to support the country at this critical juncture. In that regard, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Central Africa, Abdoulaye Bathily, will continue to advocate for support from Member States of the region, in close collaboration with his Special Representative for the Central African Republic, Babacar Gaye.

37. The Secretary-General remains seriously concerned about the deteriorating situation in Burundi. He welcomes the adoption by the Committee of the Luanda Appeal on Burundi and supports subregional contributions to ongoing regional and international initiatives to return the country to stability. The Secretary-General supports the Committee's call for all parties to renounce violence and engage in constructive dialogue. Following the adoption of the communiqué on Burundi at the 515th meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council at the level of

Heads of State and Government, on 13 June 2015, the Secretary-General requested his Special Representative for Central Africa to offer good offices in Burundi in support of regional efforts to reduce tensions, reach consensus on the way forward and help Burundians to peacefully settle their differences. The Special Representative for Central Africa will work closely with the Joint International Facilitation Team, comprising the African Union, the East African Community and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. The Secretary-General expressed his deep gratitude to his Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region, Said Djinnit, for his tireless efforts to impartially facilitate the dialogue among Burundian stakeholders during May and June of 2015.

38. The Secretary-General commends Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo and Gabon for the ratification of the Kinshasa Convention, which remains an indispensable tool in the fight against the proliferation of small arms, light weapons and armed violence in Central Africa. He calls on States members of the Committee that have not yet done so to ratify the Convention to trigger its entry into force.

39. The Secretary-General encourages States members of the Committee, as well as ECCAS, ECOWAS and the Gulf of Guinea Commission, to remain committed to fully implementing the decisions of the Summit of Heads of State and Government on Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea, held in Yaoundé on 24 and 25 June 2013. He reiterates his call to Member States and partners to provide the necessary resources to ensure the full operationalization of the Interregional Coordination Centre and the Regional Centre for Maritime Security in Central Africa. UNOCA, in collaboration with the United Nations Office for West Africa, will continue to assist countries in the region in order to achieve these objectives.

40. The Secretary-General remains concerned by continuing reports of poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking and their links to the financing of armed groups in Central Africa. He recognizes the Committee for its active engagement on the issue and commends Gabon and the Congo for their high-level efforts to increase awareness, mobilize international action and strengthen regional cooperation in this context. The Secretary-General reiterates his call to States members of the Committee and ECCAS to develop a coherent subregional strategy to address this disturbing phenomenon, with the support of UNOCA, UNODC and other partners.

41. The Committee urgently requires additional funding to continue its work. The Secretary-General therefore urges all States members of the Committee to fulfil their financial commitments so that the Committee can continue to serve as an essential confidence-building mechanism among the States of the subregion.

42. The Secretary-General reiterates the importance of maximizing the potential of UNOCA to continue to serve as an important tool in the area of preventive diplomacy in Central Africa, which will help the Office to improve its assistance to the Committee. In that regard, he highlights the recommendations of the strategic review of UNOCA, contained in his report of 14 May 2015 to the Security Council on the situation in Central Africa and the activities of UNOCA (S/2015/339). The Secretary-General welcomes the support expressed by the Security Council for the recommendations of the strategic review (S/PRST/2015/12) and encourages all Member States to express similar support.

43. The Secretary-General is grateful for the support provided by the Department of Political Affairs, UNOCA and his Special Representative for Central Africa to the functioning of the Committee. He also thanks the United Nations Office to the African Union, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, MINUSCA, MONUSCO, MENUB, as well as other United Nations entities in Central Africa, for their participation in the meetings of the Committee. He looks forward to the conclusions of the forty-first ministerial meeting of the Committee, to be held in Libreville.

Annex I

[Original: French]

The Bujumbura Declaration on the threat posed by Boko Haram to peace, security and stability in Central Africa, adopted at the thirty-ninth ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, held in Bujumbura, Burundi on 4 December 2014

We,

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and heads of delegation of the States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa,

Meeting in Bujumbura, Republic of Burundi, on the occasion of the thirty-ninth ministerial meeting of this Committee,

Concerned by the repeated and growing attacks of Boko Haram in the north of the Republic of Cameroon,

Taking into account the negative economic, social and humanitarian consequences that the activities of this group pose to the Republic of Cameroon and the Republic of Chad,

Recognizing the fact that the affected countries are forced to divert significant resources, originally intended for their economic and social development, in the fight against this group,

Considering the risk of destabilization of the entire subregion of Central Africa,

Conscious of the need to rid Africa of the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism that no circumstances can justify,

Noting that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or specific group,

Referring to the various United Nations resolutions on terrorism and violent extremism, including resolution 2178 (2014) adopted at the Summit of the United Nations Security Council devoted to threats against peace and security resulting from acts of terrorism, held on 24 September 2014,

Stressing the need for the effective implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy,

Referring to the conclusions of the Summit of the African Union Council of Peace and Security on the phenomenon of terrorism and violent extremism in Africa, held on 2 September 2014,

Condemn in the strongest terms the terrorist activities of Boko Haram in Nigeria and the north of the Republic of Cameroon;

Condemn the unjustifiable ambition of this group to create an Islamic caliphate in the area of the Lake Chad Basin;

Strongly support all initiatives undertaken by the countries of the region, the Commission of the Lake Chad Basin, the Economic Community of Central African States, the Economic Community of West African States, the African Union, the United Nations and the international community in seeking solutions to this problem;

Welcome the measures being implemented by the Republic of Cameroon and the Republic of Chad in the fight against this armed group;

Encourage the Federal Republic of Nigeria to intensify its military actions in order to secure its border with the Republic of Cameroon and the Republic of Chad;

Invite States members of the Committee to increase their vigilance concerning the risk of the spread of terrorism and all forms of extremism in Central Africa;

Urge the international community to increase its support for the fight against this armed group;

Emphasize the need for a global and integrated approach in the fight against terrorism and armed groups in Central Africa;

Propose that this issue be placed on the agenda of the next summit of Heads of State of the Economic Community of Central African States;

Request the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Central Africa and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) to submit this matter for consideration by the Security Council.

Annex II

[Original: French]

The Luanda Appeal on the situation in the Central African Republic, adopted at the fortieth ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, held in Luanda, Angola on 4 June 2015

We,

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and heads of delegation of the States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa,

Meeting in Luanda, Republic of Angola, on the occasion of the fortieth ministerial meeting of this Committee,

After reviewing the geopolitical and security situation in the Central Africa subregion,

Express our concern regarding the political, security and humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic;

Recall the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and the decisions of the African Union Council of Peace and Security on the situation in the Central African Republic;

Recognize the declarations and decisions from the various summits of the Economic Community of Central African States, including the recent sixteenth ordinary session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government, held on 25 May 2015 in N'Djamena, Republic of Chad;

Praise the tireless efforts of the international community, including the United Nations, through the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), which makes every effort each day to rescue people and alleviate their suffering;

Pay tribute to the African Union, through the African Union Mission for the Central African Republic and Central Africa (MISCA), for its continued commitment to the process of resolving the crisis in the Central African Republic;

Reaffirm the commitment of our States to supporting the transition process and becoming more actively involved in all the actions for the resolution of the crisis in the Central African Republic;

Express our gratitude to the international mediator, President Denis Sassou Nguesso of the Republic of the Congo, for his personal engagement to resolve the crisis in the Central African Republic, as well as to the former Chair of the Economic Community of Central African States, President Idriss Deby Itno of the Republic of Chad, for his efforts;

Reaffirm our commitment to the Brazzaville Agreement on the cessation of hostilities;

Welcome the holding, from January to March 2015, of grass-roots consultations followed by the convening, from 4 to 11 May 2015, of the National Reconciliation Forum in Bangui, led by Abdoulaye Bathily, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General, which brought together all the nation's living forces, including the authorities of the transition, political parties, civil society and religious and armed groups;

Celebrate the signing by all parties, of the Republican pact for peace, national reconciliation and reconstruction in the Central African Republic, the signing between the transitional Government and armed groups of the agreement on principles of disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation and integration into the uniformed elements of the Central African Republic as well as the signing of the agreement for the demobilization of child soldiers;

Urge the various actors to respect the commitments made at the National Forum in order to allow a return to a climate of peace and security, necessary for the holding of free, credible and transparent elections;

Renew our appreciation to bilateral and multilateral partners for their multifaceted assistance in the efforts for the return to lasting peace in the Central African Republic and invite them to fulfil their pledges of funding and mobilize additional resources to finance the deficit in the elections budget and cantonment operations of former combatants in the context of disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation;

Express our gratitude to the United Nations, the African Union and the Economic Community of Central African States as well as regional and international partners for their continued support to the Central African Republic.

Annex III

[Original: French]

The Luanda Appeal on the situation in Burundi, adopted at the fortieth ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, held in Luanda, Angola on 4 June 2015

We,

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and heads of delegation of the States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa,

Meeting in Luanda, Republic of Angola, on the occasion of the fortieth ministerial meeting of this Committee,

After reviewing the geopolitical and security situation in the Central Africa subregion,

Declare ourselves concerned by the political, security and humanitarian situation in the Republic of Burundi;

Express our sympathy to the people of Burundi following the acts of violence that have led to the massive movements of population and the loss of human lives;

Call on all Burundian stakeholders to restrain themselves from any act of violence that is liable to further contribute to the already tense political and security situation;

Express our gratitude to the United Nations Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region, Mr. Said Djinnit, for his continuous efforts deployed, with the support of the East African Community, the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region and the African Union, towards promoting dialogue among the different Burundian actors and ask them to continue this initiative;

Welcome the nomination of Goukouni Weddeye, the former Head of State of Chad, as Special Envoy of the Economic Community of Central African States for the Great Lakes Region, in general, and Burundi, in particular, during the Conference of the Heads of States of the Economic Community of Central African States on the Situation in Burundi, held in N'Djamena, Republic of Chad, on 25 May 2015;

Welcome the decision of the Heads of States of the East African Community to postpone the elections as a necessity in order to allow for the re-establishment of a peaceful climate, indispensable for the holding of free, credible and transparent elections;

Request the Economic Community of Central African States to support subregional and international initiatives towards ending the crisis in Burundi;

Reaffirm the commitment of our States to supporting Burundi and to be actively involved in all actions undertaken towards ending the crisis;

Invite the international community to continue providing its support to the people of Burundi in its search for peace;

Solicit the support of the States of the region and the international community in the mobilization for the return of the refugees.